

IN THE CLAIMS

Please add the following new claims 24-34:

--24. A method for conducting cashless transactions, comprising:
transmitting, from a first network device representing a seller to a second network device representing a purchaser, information identifying a product available for purchase, a purchase price of the product, and a plurality of payment options including payment by a first form of payment and payment by a second form of payment different than the first form of payment;

selecting one of the plurality of payment options at the second network device;

transmitting, from the second network device to a third network device representing a financial institute, the information identifying the product to be purchased and the purchase price of the product, only if the payment of the purchase price by the first form of payment is selected; and

transmitting, from the third network device, an authorization of the financial institute for the seller to proceed with delivery of the identified product to the purchaser, responsive to the information transmitted from the second network device to the third network device.

25. A method according to claim 24, wherein the authorization of the financial institute is transmitted from the third network device to the first network device.

26. A method according to claim 25, further comprising:

transmitting, from the third network device to the first network, the information identifying the product to be purchased and the purchase price of the product in conjunction with the transmission of the authorization of the financial institute.

27. A method according to claim 24, wherein the first form of payment is a transfer of funds on deposit in or credited to an account of the purchaser, the identity of the account being unknown to the seller, and further comprising:

transmitting, from the third network device, an instruction to transfer the funds from the account to the seller in payment of the identified purchase price for the identified product.

28. A method according to claim 27, wherein the account is maintained by the financial institute.

29. A method according to claim 24, wherein the second form of payment is one of payment by credit card and payment by debit card.

30. A method according to claim 24, further comprising:

transmitting from the second network device to the first network device, the information identifying the product to be purchased, the purchase price of the product, and the second form of payment, if the payment of the purchase price by the second form of payment is selected.

31. A system for conducting cashless transactions over network, comprising:

a first network device representing a seller configured to transmit information identifying a product available for purchase, a purchase price of the product, and a plurality of payment options including payment by a first form of payment and payment by a second form of payment different than the first form of payment;

a second network device representing a purchaser configured to receive the transmitted information, to select one of the plurality of payment options, and to transmit a first message only if the first form of payment is selected as the one payment option and a second message only if the second form of payment is selected as the one payment option; and

a third network device representing a financial institute;
wherein the first message is transmitted to the third network device and includes information identifying the product to be purchased and the purchase price of the product;

wherein the second message is transmitted to the first network device and includes information identifying the product to be purchased, the purchase price of the product, and the selected second form of payment;

wherein the third network device is further configured to transmit an authorization of the financial institute for the seller to proceed with delivery of the identified product to the purchaser, responsive to the transmitted first message.

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32. A system according to claim 31, wherein:

the authorization of the financial institute is transmitted to the second network device; and

the second network device is further configured to transmit the authorization of the financial institute to the first network device.

33. A system according to claim 32, wherein the second network device is further configured to transmit the information identifying the product to be purchased and the purchase price of the product in conjunction with the transmission, from the second network device to the first network, of the authorization of the financial institute.

34. A system according to claim 31, wherein:

the first form of payment is a transfer of funds on deposit in or credited to an account of the purchaser;

the identity of the account is unknown to the seller; and

the third network device is further configured to transmit an instruction to transfer the funds from the account to the seller in payment of the identified purchase price for the identified product.
